

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 04422 170906Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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TAGS: PFOR, GR, EEC

SUBJECT: GREEK PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET WITH MEMBERS OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AT STRASBOURG

REF: ATHENS 3533

1. SUMMARY: ON MAY 14 THE JOING PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
OF THE EEC-GREECE ASSOCIATION MET FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE
THE RESTORATION OF PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT IN GREECE. AT
A MAY 15 PRESS CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE,
JOHN PEZMAZOGLOU, HEAD OF THE GREEK DELEGATION, STATED THAT
THE GOG WOULD APPLY FOR FULL EEC MEMBERSHIP AT AN EARLY DATE,
ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFY A TIME FRAME. GEORGE SPENALE,
PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, HAILED THE REINSTITU-
TION OF THE JOING PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE AS AN IMPORTANT
STEP ALONG THE ROAD TOWARDS FULL MEMBERSHIP, AND THERE WAS
CONSIDERABLE ENTHUSIASM PUBLICLY EXPRESSED ON BOTH SIDES
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 04422 170906Z

ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF

EUROPEAN PARLAAMENTARIANS INDICATED PRIVATELY TO US THAT EARLY CONSIDERATION OF FULL MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE PREMATURE AND SOMEWHAT UNREALISTIC, SINCE IT IS CONDITIONED IN LARGE MEASURE ON RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND AMELIORATION OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE JOING EEC-GREECE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD IN ATHENS JUNE 25-28. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GREEK PARLIANEMTARY DELEGATION WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY GATHERED IN STRASBOURG FOR THE MAY 11-15 SITTING OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT EEC-GREEC PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE SINCE THE RETURN OF DEMOCRACY TO GREECE WAS HELD ON MAY 14 AND CENTERED FOR THE MOST PART ON THE QUESTION OF GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC, THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO MISSION SOURCES, THE LEGISLATORS ALSO DISCUSSED THE POSSIBLILITY OF A FUTURE JOINT MEETING WITH TURKISH PARLIAMENTARIANS (WITH APPARENTLY LITTLE ENTHUSIASM SHOWN FROM THE GREEK SIDE), BUT AGREED THAT TEH REINSTITUTION OF THE EEC-GREECE JOING PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE AND THE NORMALIZATION OF EEC-GREECE RELATIONS WERE MATTERS OF MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN AND MORE READILY ATTAINABLE GOALS. TO THIS END IT WAS AGREED THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE WOULD BE HELD IN ATHENS JUNE 25-28 AND THAT MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES WOULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND.

3. DURING THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING PEZMAZOGLOU STATED THAT THE GOG WOLD SOON (DATE UNSPECIFIED) SUBMIT ITS APPLI-CATION FOR FULL EC MEMBERSHIP. HE ALSO STATED THAT GREECE FAVORS FULL MEMBERSHIP FOR TURKEY, BUT INSISTED THAT THE TWO APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE TREATED SEPARATELY. THE GREEKS ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT AN EARLIER EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DECISION TO SEND A STUDY TEAM TO CYPRUS. THIS QUESTION WAS PURSUED BY A REPORTER AT THE MAY 15 PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT WAS LEFT UNANSWERED BY SPENALE WHO SAID ONLY THAT THE PROPOSED MISSION TO CYPRUS WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE OF CONDITIONS AT THE AIRPORT IN NICOSIA. A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 EC BRU 04422 170906Z

OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR MEDITERRANEAN MATTERS TOLD US THAT MEMBERS OF THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT HAD VOICED SUCH STRONG OBJECTIONS TO THE CYPRUS VISIT, THAT THE RUEOPEAN PARLIAMENT WAS FORCED TO DISCARD THE IDEA.

4. DURING THE MAY QR MEDITERRANEAN DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT, CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE CYPRUS ISSUE AND THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN BRINGING ABOUT A

PEACEFUL SOLUTION. EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT FITZGERALD, IN RESPONDING TO A QUESTION BY MP PETER KIRK (CONSERVATIVE, UK) RELATING TO THE POSSIBILITY OF "EARLY "GREEK MEMBERSHIP RAISED BY THE GREEKS IN THE JOINT EEC-GREEK COMMITTEE MEETING, TOLD THE ASSEMBLY THAT DISCUSSING THE MATTER OF FULL MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE PREMATURE BECAUSE GREECE HAS NOT YET SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION. HE ADDED THAT WHEN THE ISSUE IS POSED IT WOULD BE "EXAMINED CAREFULLY AND SYMPATHETICALLY THE COMMUNITY WITH A VIEW OF SEEING WHETHER THE NECESSARY STEPS TO BRING ABOUT SUCH MEMBERSHIP CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY TAKEN AND WHAT KIND OF TIME SCALE WILL BE REQUIRED." FITZGERALD ALSO CITED EC FOOD AID FOR CYPRUS AND THE STANDING OFFER OF THE COMMUNITY'S GOOD OFFICES IN NEGOTIATING A SETTLEMENT AS POSITIVE EC INITIATIVES. HOWEVER, HE REMINDED THE PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES ON CYPRUS RECENTLY INITIATED BY UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM, STATING THAT "FOR US TO SEEK TO INSIST UPON OUR GOOD OFFICES, TO PRESS THEM UPON THE PARTNERS ENGAGED IN THESE DELICATE DISCUSSIONS, MIGHT BE TO MAKE A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM MORE DIFFICULT."

5. AT THE MAY 15 JOINT COMMITTEE PRESS CONFERENCE WHEN PEZMAZOGLOU TOLD NEWSMEN OF THE GOG'S INTENTION TO SUBMIT AN EARLY APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP, SPENALE SAID THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S CRITERIA FOR GRANTING FULL MEMBERSHIP ARE OUTDATED. STATING THAT THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF AN APPLYING COUNTRY WAS NO LONGER RELEVANT, SPENALE POINTED OUT THAT THE GNP OF GREECE WAS NOT DISSIMILAR TO THAT OF IRELAND. HE ADDED THAT IT IS AN ESTABLISHED FACT THAT THE ECONOMIES OF EC MEMBER STATES HAVE DEVELOPED AND EXPANDED AT A MUCH MORE ACCELERATED RATE THAN THOSE OF NON-EC COUNTRIES AND THAT IT WOULD THEREFORE BE COMPLETELY UNREASONABLE TO INSIST UPON APPLICATIONS MEETING PRESCRIBED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECONOMIC GROWTH STANDARDS AS A PRECONDITION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

6. THE BUREAU OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE AGENDA FOR THE COMMITTEE'S FORTHCOMING MEETING IN ATHENS AS FOLLOWS: EXAMINATION OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION; EXAMINATION OF MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED TO ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION AND FOR GREECE'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE; EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND ON POLITICAL QUESTIONS OF COMMON INTERESTS, WITH REGARD IN PARTICULAR TO THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA; DISCUSSION OF COMMON ACTION TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON THE BASES OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REGARDING CYPRUS AND THE RETURN OF CYPRIOT REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES. GREENWALD

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